

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A ground covering element (2) of artificial stone material, having a basic shape corresponding to a unification of several square basic elements (4; 6; 8), in particular an angular ground covering element (2), the ground covering element (2) comprising projections (16) and recesses (18) all around its circumference, all circumferential basic element sides (12) - as seen from the center (22) of the particular basic element upper side - having substantially the same profile (14) which is substantially point-symmetric with respect its halving point (20), characterized in that said profile (14) consists of three projections (16) and three recesses (18);
and in that, with respect to said profile (14), the middle projection (16b) and the middle recess (18b) each are considerably wider than the two other projections (16a, 16c) and recesses (18a, 18c), respectively.
2. A ground covering element according to claim 1,
characterized in that said projections (16) and recesses (18) are trapezoidal.
3. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 1,
characterized in that said projections (16) and recesses (18) are confined each by an at least partly rounded line.
4. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 1,
characterized in that the middle projection (16b) and the middle recess (18b) are at least 1.5 times as wide as the two other projections (16a, 16c) and recesses (18a, 18c), respectively, preferably at least 1.8 times as wide as the two other projections (16a, 16c) and recesses (18a, 18c), respectively, and more preferably at least 2.0 times as wide as the two other projections (16a, 16c) and recesses (18a, 18c), respectively.

5. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 1, characterized in that it has spacer projections (28) on its circumference, with these spacer projections (28) being left disregarded in the consideration of the geometric relationships indicated in claim 1.
6. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 1, characterized in that it has at least one dummy gap (26) on its upper side, which generally extends preferably in conformity with the junction line of the unification of two adjacent basic elements (4; 6; 8).
7. A ground covering element (2) of artificial stone material, having a basic shape corresponding to a unification of several square basic elements (4; 6; 8), in particular an angular ground covering element (2), the ground covering element (2) comprising projections (16) and recesses (18) all around the circumference and comprising retractions (30) on the circumference which result in efficient water penetration passages in a group of the adjacently laid ground covering elements (2), characterized in that the projections (16) and recesses (18) in their entirety are defined by one profile (14) each for each circumferential basic element side (12), there being provided
 - (a) on zero to all circumferential basic element sides (12), substantially a first profile (14a) each, having - as seen from the center (22) of the particular basic element upper side - a first end neighboring projection (16a), a second end neighboring projection (16c) and an end distance projection (16b) therebetween;
 - (b) and on zero to part of the circumferential basic element sides (12), substantially a second profile (14b) each, having - as seen from the center (22) of the particular basic element upper side - a first end neighboring projection (16a) and a second end neighboring projection (16c);
 - (c) and on zero to part of the circumferential basic element sides (12), substantially a third profile (14c) each, having - as seen from the center (22) of the particular basic element upper side - an end distance projection (16a) and an end neighboring projection (16a; 16c);

- (d) wherein, furthermore, the additional condition holds that, on each circumferential basic element side (12), there is provided a first profile (14a) or a second profile (14b) or a third profile (14c);
 - (e) and wherein finally, for laying a group of the ground covering elements (2) adjacent each other,
 - a first profile (14a), if provided, can be applied to a first profile (14a), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element;
or can be applied to a second profile (14b), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element;
or can be applied to a third profile (14c), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element;
 - a second profile (14b), if provided, can be applied to a second profile (14b), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element;
or can be applied to a third profile (14c), if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element,
 - and a third profile (14c), if provided, can be applied to a third profile, if provided, of a neighboring ground covering element.
8. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that said projections (16) and recesses (18) are trapezoidal.
9. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that said projections (16) and recesses (18) are confined each by an at least partly rounded line.
10. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that said retractions (30) are trapezoidal.
11. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that the retractions (30) are each confined by an at least partly rounded line.

12. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that, with respect to the first profile (14a),
- the first end neighboring projection (16a) begins substantially at the first end of the basic element side (12),
 - the second end neighboring projection (16c) has beside itself a recess (18c) extending up to the second end of the basic element side (12),
 - an additional recess (18a) is provided between the end distance projection (16b) and one of the end neighboring projections (16a; 16c),
 - and a retraction (30) is provided between the end distance projection (16b) and the other end neighboring projection (16c; 16a),
 - said two end neighboring projections (16a, 16c) and said two recesses (18a, 18c) having all substantially the same width.
13. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that, with respect to the second profile (14b),
- the first end neighboring projection (16a) begins substantially at the first end of the basic element side (12),
 - the second end neighboring projection (16c) has beside itself a recess (18c) extending up to the second end of the basic element side (12),
 - a retraction (30) is provided between these projections (16a, 16c),
 - said two projections (16a, 16c) and said recess (18c) having all substantially the same width (Fig. 5).
14. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that, with respect to the third profile (14c),
- the end neighboring projection (16c) has beside itself a recess (18) extending up to the neighboring end of the basic element side (12),
 - the end distance projection (16b) has beside itself an additional recess (18a) extending up to the end of the basic element side (12) that is closer to the same,
 - a retraction (30) is provided between the end distance projection (16b) and the end neighboring projection (16c),

- said end neighboring projection (16c) and said recess (18c) having substantially the same width and said additional recess (18a) having substantially twice the width with respect thereto.
15. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that the retraction (30) in each of the first profile (14a) and/or the second profile (14b) and/or the third profile (14c) is at least 33 % of the width of the particular circumferential basic element side (12), preferably at least 40 % and most preferably at least 50 %.
 16. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that the particular retraction (30) is at least in part taken back further than the recess or recesses (18) of the particular basic element side (12).
 17. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that it is an angular ground covering element (2) of three basic elements (4; 6; 8);
that there are provided two or three first profiles (14a);
that there are provided five second profiles (14b);
and that there provided zero or one third profile (14c).
 18. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that it is an angular ground covering element (2) of three basic elements (4; 6; 8);
that there are provided zero first profiles (14a);
that there are provided four or five second profiles (14b);
and that there provided three or four third profiles (14c).
 19. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that it has spacer projections (28) on its circumference, with these spacer projections (28) being left disregarded in the consideration of the geometric relationships indicated in claim 7.

20. A ground covering element (2) according to claim 7,
characterized in that it has at least one dummy gap (26) on its upper side, which
generally extends preferably in conformity with the junction line of the unification of
two adjacent basic elements (4; 6; 8).
21. Ground covering elements (2) containing a first ground covering element (2)
according to claim 1 and a second ground covering element (2) according to claim
7, wherein for laying a first ground covering element (2) and a second ground
covering element (2) adjacent each other, the basic element side profile (14) of the
first ground covering element (2) is adapted to be laid adjacent a first profile (14a)
or a second profile (14b) or a third profile (14c) of an adjacent second ground
covering element (2).